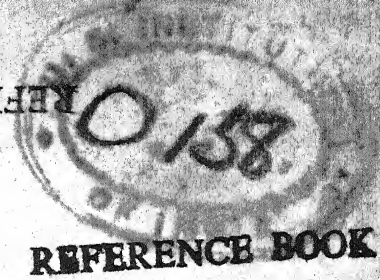


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REFERENCE BOOK



# RECORD

OF THE SERVICES OF THE

## 23rd Bombay Light Infantry

DURING THE CAMPAIGN IN

## BURMA,

FROM JULY 1886 TO MAY 1888.

By

CAPTAIN W. A. M. WILSON,

23RD BOMBAY INFANTRY.

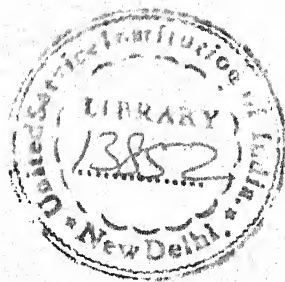


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### Dates of service of 23rd Bombay Light Infantry in Burma.

Embarked at Bombay      ...      ...      ...      ... 12th July 1886.

Disembarked at Rangoon ... .. 22nd July 1886.

Embarked at Rangoon                   ...                   ...                   ...                   6th May 1888.

Disembarked at Bombay ... .. 17th May 1888.

STRENGTH OF 23RD BOMBAY LIGHT INFANTRY.

	Lieut.-Colonels.	Major.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Surgeon.	Subedars.	Jemadars.	Headclars.	Naiks.	Privates.	Total of all Ranks
Proceeded to Burma with Regimental Head-quarters	1	1	1	5	1	6	6	33	30	543	627
Joined in Burma	...	1	...	2	...	1	2	5	7	176	194
Promoted	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	6	8	...	18
Total	2	2	2	7	1	8	9	44	45	719	839
<i>Decrease.</i>											
Killed in action	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	8	10
Died of sickness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	17	19
Invalided to India	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	60	63
Transferred, pensioned, discharged, &c.	...	1	...	4	...	...	2	4	...	12	23
Promoted	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	6	8	18
Total	...	2	...	5	...	1	3	8	9	105	133
Returned to India with Regimental Head-quarters	2	...	2	2	1	7	6	36	36	614	706



### CASTE RETURN OF REGIMENT ON RE-EMBARKATION FOR BOMBAY.

CASTE.								No.
Christians	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Mussulmans—								
Panjab	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Hindustan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Bombay Provinces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Mahrattas—								
Concan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
Deccan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Pardesis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Rajputana men	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Sikhs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Jews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total								699

CASTE RETURN OF MEN DIED AND INVALIDED AFTER RETURN OF REGIMENT TO  
INDIA FROM CAUSES ARISING FROM ACTIVE SERVICE.

CASTE.	Invalided for Wounds.	Invalided for General Debility.	Died from General Debility.	Total.
Christians .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mussulmans—				
Panjab.....	.....	1	.....	1
Hindustan .....	.....	1	.....	1
Bombay Provinces.....	.....	4	.....	4
Mahrattas—				
Concan.....	2	5	2	9
Deccan .....	1	2	.....	3
Pardesis .....	1	2	3	6
Rajputana men .....	.....	.....	2	2
Sikhs .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jews .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	4	15	7	26

The first station of the head-quarters of the 23rd Bombay Light Infantry was at Myingyan, where it remained from 5th August 1886 to 3rd April 1889. The detachments furnished by the regiment during this time were Pyilingyaw, Senbyagyoun, Salen, Natogyi, Yetagyo, Sametkyon, Mehtyila, Pakhangyi and Shimadoung, and latterly a large detachment for the Pokoko-Kanle column.

The work done by the men at head-quarters was hard on account of the large number required to escort ration and other parties, as well as to supply guards to river steamers. Small parties were also continually out on "daurs."

From 4th April 1887 to 27th April 1888 the head-quarters were stationed at Pokoko. During this period the detached posts garrisoned were Pakhangyi, Shimadoung, Myaing, Kanlah, Tebya, Lingadaw, Pyinchoung, Pouk, and Pongloun, and for a short time there were detachments at Alon and Mingin up the Chindwin River. Later on, in the cold weather of 1887-88, two large columns were sent out—the one to operate in the Kyaw Valley and the other in the Yaw Valley. In connection with these columns the following posts were held:—Leho, Chaungu, Yedu, Thilin, and Gungaw. At the same time Colonel Heyland, 1st Bombay Lancers, was operating in the Pokoko District against Boh Nga Kwe, and several small posts were garrisoned to support him. The work of rationing all these posts and parties fell for the most part on the men at head-quarters, and in consequence of the small number left there, the escort duty was very heavy.

On 6th September 1886, the regiment was inspected at Myingyan by Major-General G. White, V.C., C.B., Commanding Burma Field Force, who was pleased to express his approbation of the smart appearance of the regiment on parade. Again, at the inspection of the garrison of Salenmyo, General White expressed his great satisfaction at the appearance of the detachment, 23rd Bombay Light Infantry, at that place. On 15th September 1886, Sir Herbert Macpherson, V.C., K.C.B., inspected the regiment and expressed his approbation.

On 5th November 1886, the regiment was inspected by His Excellency Sir Frederick Roberts, Commander-in-Chief in India, who was pleased to state that "the men were beautifully turned out."

On 27th January 1887, Sir Charles Arbuthnot, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief, Madras Army, inspected the regiment and expressed his satisfaction with the smart and neat manner in which the regiment turned out.

The head-quarters and various detachments were visited and inspected on several occasions by Brigadier-General Sir R. Low, K.C.B., A.D.C. His farewell order and report on the regiment are attached.

Brigadier-General Faunce, Commanding the 2nd Brigade, Upper Burma Force, inspected the regiment on 16th April 1888 and stated that he considered "the regiment contains a fine set of men, well-dressed, well-set-up, and well-looked-after in every respect."



Immediately after the return of the regiment from Burma it was inspected on 5th June 1888 by Major-General Solly-Flood, C.B., Commanding the Poona Division, who distributed the Burma War Medals and who stated " \* \* \* \* The men are a fine set and healthy looking, and are clean and well turned out \* \* \* \*."

The *Pyilingyaw* detachment consisted of Lieut. W. Wilson and 105 native ranks. It was stationed at a village of that name on the Mon Creek in the Minbu District and remained there from the beginning of August to the end of October 1886. The country round was in a very disturbed state owing to the murder of Mr. Phayre, Deputy Commissioner, and the withdrawal of the troops composing the garrison of Ngapeh. The two principal dacoits in this neighbourhood were the well-known Boh Shwe and the Phoongyi Boh Oktama. The country was difficult to operate in on account of the thick jungle on one side and paddy cultivation on the other, the heavy rainfall and the numerous large nullahs and creeks intersecting the country. The men, though just arrived in the country, adapted themselves to the work with great keenness.

There were numerous and at one time almost daily skirmishes with the dacoits. The most notable engagement with the enemy was on 3rd September 1886 at Phayakon, where the Burmans had taken up a very strong position inside the enclosure of a pagoda with the intention of ambuscading a party of Panjabi Police. They were surprised by a party of the 23rd Bombay Infantry, and after a sharp fight were driven out with the bayonet. The Civil authorities reported that on this occasion there were 32 killed and about 70 wounded. For services on this day the 3rd class order of merit was conferred on one native officer and seven men of the detachment, and Sir G. White expressed his approbation of the operations (copy of letter from Brigade-Major, 1st Battalion, attached).

Bon Oktama was surprised in the village of Tokoko, on the 9th September 1888. The party of the 23rd Bombay Light Infantry, numbering 60, had to advance through paddy fields under fire, but drove out the dacoits, who were reported to number 300, killing 19 and wounding a large number.

Extensive patrols through the district were carried out, although the rain was very heavy and the country under water. Major Parrot, Deputy Commissioner at Minbu, repeatedly expressed his high opinion of the work done by this detachment in keeping quiet a large tract of country between the Mon and Ma creeks. Major Carré, R.A., and Lieut.-Colonel Rolland, M.S.C., Commanding the neighbouring post of Segu, also expressed thorough approval of the work done.

The *Senbyagyoun* detachment consisted of 1 jemadar and 50 non-commissioned officers and men. The principal object of the detachment was to keep open the line of communication between Salen and the river, which had been constantly interrupted by dacoits, and in this it was entirely successful. The party was detached from 3rd August to the end of October 1886.



The *Salen* detachment consisted of Major W. Black, Lieut. L. Warner and 100 native ranks and was away from 3rd August to the end of October 1886. It was landed while the regiment was proceeding up the river, to reinforce the garrison of *Salen* after the fierce attack on that post in July 1886. The relief of *Salen* had the effect of breaking the dacoits up into small bands, which were dispersed all over the surrounding district. Although this detachment was not fortunate enough to have any engagement of importance with the enemy, its constant patrols had the effect of driving the dacoits from the district and prevented them again gathering and making any head.

The detachment at *Natogyi* in the Myingyan District, consisting of Captain E. C. Kellie and 102 native ranks, remained there from 5th August to the beginning of November 1886. The country round was to a large extent under paddy cultivation and with the very roughest of tracks to serve as roads. The principal engagement in which a portion of this detachment took part was the surprise on *Nabuddah* on 2nd September 1886, when 25 dacoits were killed and a large number wounded. The whole of the country in the vicinity was regularly patrolled, and in the numerous skirmishes which took place many dacoits were killed and wounded.

In November 1886 the *Natogyi* detachment was moved 22 miles further on to *Pyinzimyo*, and remained there till the 31st of March 1887. Here much excellent work was done. A small party of Mounted Infantry was instituted, which, mounted on ponies captured from dacoits, was able to make more extensive patrols.

Numerous night marches were made to surprise villages which were known to harbour dacoits, and with successful results, as at *Nahimyt*, where 8 dacoits were killed and a large quantity of arms taken, and at *Myitshoo*, where the enemy lost 12 men.

In the middle of August 1886 a detachment, consisting of 2 British Officers—Lieutenant Lincoln and Lieutenant Conran—and 75 native ranks, was sent to *Yetagyo* on the *Chindwin*. Parties from this post had several successful engagements with dacoits, such as at *Maoo*, where a party of dacoits was caught crossing the *Chindwin* and lost 10 men. In reference to this expedition, a letter was received from the Assistant Adjutant General, Upper Burma Field Force, saying that the General Officer Commanding considered the operations by Lieutenant Lincoln were "well conducted."

From 31st October 1886 to 14th March 1887 a detachment of one Subedar and 50 of other ranks was stationed at *Sametkyone*, a post on the *Irrawady*, chiefly to guard the village, which was a halting place for steamers. Patrols were sent out on both sides of the river.

A detachment, consisting of one European Officer—Major Ebdon—and 103 native ranks, was posted at *Mehtila* from 30th October 1886 to 22nd January 1887. This had originally been a very disturbed district, but, owing to the presence of the troops, soon became comparatively quiet, and, although parties of the detachment were constantly out, no large body of dacoits was encountered.

A detachment of varying strength was stationed at *Pakhangyi* from 3rd November 1886 to 27th May 1887. The party from Yetagyo first took up the post strengthened by about 50 men from regimental headquarters, making the total of native ranks about 125 with two British Officers. The situation 3 miles from the Chindwin was most unhealthy, as during the rains the intervening country was under water, and when drying up was the cause of much sickness. At one time as many as 70 men of the detachment were suffering from fever, but the duties were carried on without intermission. At the time of first occupation the large and important town of Pakhangyi had been burned by the dacoits and the surrounding villages had been deserted by their inhabitants. The establishment of this post did much good by restoring confidence and inducing the people to return to their homes. The dacoits, who had for some time been doing much harm in the villages on the Chindwin between Yetagyo and Pokoko, retreated inland towards Kanle. Extensive and distant patrols were sent out from this post, and a large quantity of arms was collected. One expedition from this post to the islands at the mouth of the Chindwin drove the dacoits from the villages of Soolaygon, Oneinbok, and Pyema, which they held successively, and finally forced them to cross the Chindwin. On this occasion the dacoits lost a considerable number in killed and wounded.

*Shimadoun* was held by a detachment of the regiment from 5th December 1886 to the end of April 1888. This post, situated on top of a hill about 1,750 feet high, was taken up as a signalling station to enable the posts and columns of the Pakhangyi, Pokoko, and other districts to communicate with the brigade head-quarters at Myingyan. An account of the signalling work done is given in a separate report. The chief hardship which this detachment had to bear was scarcity of water. When the post was first occupied, a small supply of water was found in a few cisterns cut out of the rock on the hill-side. This was speedily exhausted, and the men of the detachment had to go daily to the bottom of the hill to procure their water, at first from a tank one mile from the foot of the hill, but in the hot weather from a tank two miles distant. The labour of carrying the water was excessive, as the hill was so steep and the roadway consisting the whole way of rough and broken steps. On one occasion two men of the detachment were killed by an ambuscade when proceeding to fetch water. No fresh provisions of any sort were available, as the country round the base of the hill was very poor, and what few villages existed were all deserted. The strength of the detachment was 30 native ranks from the Pakhangyi detachment under Lieut. Wilson.

In March 1887 Lieut. Lincoln and 50 native ranks went from Pakhangyi to occupy *Lingadaw* and were reinforced shortly afterwards by 40 more rifles from head-quarters. The object of this post was to prevent the incursion of dacoits from the North into the Pakhangyi District. A few days after the post was taken up, a determined night attack was made on it, and but for the prompt action of Naik Ahibaran Singh, commanding the guard, a disaster might have ensued. As it was, the enemy was beaten off with heavy loss. The conduct of the Naik on this occasion was highly commended by Brigadier-General R. Low.



In March 1888 a small party from this post under Lieut. Delamain, after a night march through the jungle, succeeded in surprising and killing a well-known leader, Boh Thae, for whom a reward of Rs. 500 was paid by Government.

On 3rd April 1887, a detachment, consisting of one British Officer—Major E. C. Kellie—and 105 native ranks, was sent to *Alon* up the Chindwin. Here it remained only one week and was then marched to *Mingin*. The dense woods and marshy country rendered patrolling very difficult. At this time there was a scare of a Chin incursion, so a small party of the 23rd Bombay Light Infantry, mounted on transport ponies, was sent over the hills to the Toundwenga Valley. Another party proceeded by river to Choungu and thence to the same valley, where four small posts were occupied and a regular and constant system of patrols established. Although the Chins did raid in a neighbouring valley, they retired without attacking Toundwenga. The posts were accordingly evacuated after an occupation lasting for six weeks. The detachment returned to Pokoko on 7th June 1887.

In December 1886, a column under Colonel J. Gatacre, 23rd Bombay Light Infantry, was despatched from Pokoko against the Shwegyo-byin Mintha or Kanle Prince, whose army was defeated near Myaing with great loss. The column operated in the Pakhangyi district until the end of January 1887, when it crossed over into the Yaw country to the aid of a Bengal column, under Major Stead. Colonel Gatacre, leaving the cavalry and guns in the plains and reinforced by 50 rifles, 23rd Bombay Light Infantry, crossed the Pongdoun Mountains and occupied the fortified town of Minua on the 12th February with but little opposition. The column proceeded as far north as Gungaw, and then, under orders from head-quarters, fell back on to *Pauk* and *Myaing*.

The *Myaing* village had been burnt in November 1886 before the arrival of the Pokoko column, but the situation being central, it was used as a base from which the column worked in the Pakhangyi District, and on the column being broken up, it was selected for a post to watch the dense jungles to the North-West and North in which the followers of the Kanle Prince had taken refuge. The garrison consisted at first of two companies 23rd Bombay Light Infantry and subsequently of one-half troop Madras Cavalry, half company Mounted Infantry, and one company 23rd Light Infantry. From March to December 1887 the garrison was constantly engaged with the dacoits under Boh Nga Kwe to the South, with Bohs Thae and Tun-u to the East and North-East, the Kanle Prince to the North, and the Leo Thugyi and Mounng Yakwut to the West. The country for the most part (except to the South and South-East) was very difficult to work in, especially in the rainy season. Hills covered with dense jungle, and without roads of any description. In addition to their duties in hunting down the dacoits, the men of the 23rd were employed in making a fortified post at Myaing, in connecting Myaing with the neighbouring posts and villages by roads cut through the jungle and in the remaking of the town of Myaing.

In December 1887 a column was formed at, and despatched from, Myaing, consisting of 1 Troop Mounted Infantry and 2 Companies 23rd Bombay Light

1 Squadron Cavalry.  
2 Guns.  
1 Company Sappers and Miners.  
100 Rifles, Munster Fusiliers.  
150 Rifles, 23rd Light Infantry.



Infantry. The column operated in the Kyaw Valley and neighbourhood until the end of April 1888 and succeeded in quite cleaning the dacoits out of that district. In January 1888 Moung Yakwut, the chief leader of the dacoits in Yaw, was captured, tried and hung.

On the 23rd Bombay Light Infantry being directed to embark for India, the column returned to Myaing, receiving, on its arrival there, an ovation from the inhabitants of the township, who, to the number of above a thousand, had assembled with all the village headmen to bid good-bye to the troops. The town was profusely decorated with flags and branches of trees. Triumphal arches with inscriptions in Burmese were erected, and the column headed by the local priests and headmen entered amidst the playing of bands, firing of guns and general rejoicings. For two days the men were entertained to Burmese nautes, and when, on the evening of the second day, the troops marched out of Myaing, the sorrow of the people was undisguised, and throughout the march to the river (some 30 miles) the villagers everywhere turned out to bid the men farewell.

*Pouk* was first occupied in April 1887. This was a most important point, as it was on the borders of the Yaw country, of which it was looked on as the capital. The surrounding country was much disturbed, as the famous dacoit leader, Boh Yakwut, belonged to this place and had immense influence with the people of the district. Dacoit bands were constantly roaming about in the neighbourhood and on more than one occasion threatened *Pouk* itself. Operations against them were extremely difficult on account of the nature of the country. The hills without roads and covered with thick jungle, and the valleys with rivers running down them and subject to inundation, rendered marching difficult and made it impossible to surprise the enemy. There were numerous skirmishes with the dacoits, but little was effected, as, except on one occasion, they never stood. *Pouk* was evacuated for a short time, as it was thought it would be impracticable to hold it during the rains. On a force being marched back to re-occupy it, the dacoits were found in a strong position on the hills over-hanging *Pouk* itself and had to be driven from one hill to the other before the town could be occupied.

During the operations in the Yaw and Kyaw Valleys *Pouk* was an important post, as it formed the base of operations from which supplies, &c., were drawn. A detachment of the 23rd Bombay Light Infantry remained at *Pouk* till April 1888, under Captain E. Lawford, Madras Lancers.

*Pyinchoung*, an important point between *Pouk* and *Pokoko*, was held by a detachment of the regiment from April 1887 to April 1888. The principal object of this post was to maintain communication between the two places mentioned above, but a large amount of patrolling was done notwithstanding the difficulty of the country, which was of the same nature as that surrounding *Pouk*.

*Tebya* and *Kanlah* were two small posts between *Pyinchoung* and *Pokoko* held for two months in 1887 to keep the line of communications open. They were eventually handed over to the Police.



A small detachment of 1 subedar and 20 rifles was established on 8th June 1887 at *Poungloun*, half way between Pokoko and Pakhangyi. This part of the country had become much disturbed owing to the depredation of a band of dacoits under Boh Nga Kwe, and communication with Pakhangyi and Lingadaw had become difficult. By constant patrols in the neighbourhood confidence was soon restored. The detachment was withdrawn in November 1887. This post, like Pakhangyi, was a most unhealthy one, as it was on the border of the country flooded by the Chindwin.

On December 1887 a second column proceeded into the Yaw country commanded by Colonel J. Gatacre. This column was mainly composed of 23rd Bombay Light Infantry. The force marched from Pouk on 3rd December *via* Choungu over the Poungloun Hills to Yedu, Thilni, and Gungaw. It was found that complete confidence had been restored in the valley, and the people were most willing to give all assistance in the matter of procuring transport and supplies and erecting accommodation for the troops. Although no fighting was done, the occupation of the Yaw Valley at this time was important, as it prevented the incursion of the dacoits against whom Captain Scallon was acting in the Kyaw Valley. Posts were established on the line of communications at *Yedu* and *Thilni* and garrisoned by detachments of the 23rd Bombay Light Infantry. To them was assigned the duty of patrolling the valley and passing on stores, &c., to Gungaw. The head-quarters of the column halted at Gungaw for nearly three months, and a large amount of patrolling and surveying was done. Communication was established with Captain Scallon's force in the Kyaw Valley, and at Kan with a column which had worked along the Myithu River from the Chindwin.

On the return march a column, mainly composed of 23rd Bombay Light Infantry, under Lieutenant Wilson, was sent from Thilni to Laungshe, a district not previously visited by our troops. Most friendly relations were established with the inhabitants. The column returned to Pouk about the end of February 1888, but orders were received to re-occupy the posts at Yedu and Thilni for some weeks more with detachments of the 23rd Bombay Light Infantry.

#### SIGNALLING.

The signalling work done by the 23rd Bombay Light Infantry in Burma was extensive. As the regiment proceeded up the Irrawaddy, four signallers were landed at Minbu, where they did much useful work for four months in keeping up communication with the telegraph station on the other side of the river.

In December 1886, the Shimadoun Hill in the Pakhangyi District was taken up as a signalling station. The intention at first was only to connect the Pokoko-Kanle column, with the head-quarters of the 4th Brigade at Myingyan, but communication was immediately established from Shimadoun with Yetagyo, Pakhangyi, Pokoko, Myaing, Toungha, and Pagan, and later on with Lingadaw and Poungloun. Through this station columns moving in the Pakhangyi and Pokoko Districts and also on the left bank of the Irrawaddy were able to communicate with brigade head-quarters and with one another. Being a connecting station, all messages received had to be re-transmitted and very often repeated to two or three stations. For over three

months there were only four signallers to conduct all the work with two heliographs and two lamps (regimental property). Afterwards two more signallers were added. The number of messages transmitted was very large, and the labour much increased by the large number of stations and the want of sufficient instruments, as, owing to the view being intercepted, the instruments had to be carried to various points of the hill to enable communication to be held with the different posts. Signalling at night was rendered difficult on account of the village lights and jungle fires which were visible owing to the lofty position on Shimadoun Hill. Although the work done was large, it was so well performed as to draw forth the constant praise of the late Colonel Heyland, and many other officers who communicated through the Shimadoun post.

A tabulated statement of the messages sent and received during the first two months was drawn out and submitted to His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, Bombay Army, who expressed satisfaction at the work done.

The importance of the signalling work done cannot be over-estimated, as all the outposts of the Pokoko District were thus able to be in immediate communication with each other and head-quarters, thereby facilitating concerted action throughout the district, which would have been otherwise impossible.

The signallers at Shimadoun were not withdrawn until the departure of the regiment for India in April 1888.

The 23rd Bombay Light Infantry furnished signallers for the following posts in the Pokoko District in addition to Shimadoun :—Pokoko, Poungloung, Pakhangyi, Lingadaw, and Myaing ; and at all these stations the men were on duty for double working hours.

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*Extracts from General Orders of Government, London Gazette, &c.*

In the official despatches published in General Order of Government, No. 434, dated 16th June 1887—

Para. 16.—Brigadier-General Anderson mentions the following officers :

Lieut.-Colonel J. Gatacre, 23rd Bombay Light Infantry.

Captain E. C. Kellie,                      do.                      do.

Lieut W. A. M. Wilson,                      do.                      do.

I support the recommendation of Brigadier-General Anderson, \* \* \*, but reserve the following for special mention :—

Lieutenant-Colonel Gatacre, Commanding the 23rd Bombay Light Infantry. This officer has earned advancement by the discipline and efficiency of the fine regiment he commands. He also rendered important service in command of a column which advanced on Kanle and subsequently into the Yaw country. \* \* \*

Para. 19.—Brigadier-General Low, C.B., has named the following officers:

\* \* \* \* \*

Lieut. W. A. M. Wilson, 23rd Bombay Light Infantry.

\* \* \* \* \*

For services in Upper Burma Colonel J. Gatacre was created a Companion of the Military Order of the Bath in the *London Gazette* of 25th November 1887.

Captain Robert Irvin Scallon was created a Member of the Distinguished Service Order in the *London Gazette* of 3rd August 1888.

*General Order by the Government of India dated 7th September 1888.*

"No. 783.—The Governor General in Council is pleased to admit the undermentioned native officer and men to the 3rd Class of the Order of Merit:—

23rd Bombay Light Infantry.

Subadar Salvadore Gabriel (since killed in action).

No. 177 Sepoy Gopal Kandé,  
 „ 237 Naik Ramjirao Dalvi,  
 „ 331 Sepoy Rajbarao Palandé,  
 „ 657 do. Rama Kalé,  
 „ 715 do. Shivnath Ahir,  
 „ 411 do. Shivnath Singh,  
 „ 432 do. Amir Khan,

for gallant conduct on the 3rd September 1886 at the capture of Phayagon Pagoda, Upper Burma."

*Extract from Brigade Orders by Brigadier-General Sir R. C. Low, K.C.B.,  
 A.D.C., Commanding 4th Brigade, Upper Burma Field Force.*

MYINGYAN, 30th March 1888.

The 23rd Bombay Light Infantry being about to leave the Command, the Brigadier-General wishes to put on record the services of the regiment while in Upper Burma. The regiment arrived in the summer of 1886 and has taken a prominent part in the pacification of the country. During the last year it has formed the garrison of Pokoko and the various posts attached to that Command, and it is largely owing to the ability and judgment of the Officer Commanding the Regiment—Colonel Gatacre, C.B., who has also been in command of the Pokoko District, and to the indefatigable manner in which the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the regiment have devoted themselves to their duty that this part of the country has been reduced to comparative quiet and freedom from dacoits.

The regiment has lost 1 native officer and 9 men killed in action. During the two years it has sent only 48 men invalided to India, this being mainly due to careful recruiting in the past and to care being taken that only efficient soldiers remained in the ranks.



The conduct and discipline of the men have been excellent, and the turn-out of the men has been remarkable for its neatness, and the men at all times have shown a soldier-like pride in the smartness of their appearance. The Brigadier-General has noted this especially in small out-posts and in parties on the line of march.

Colonel Gatacre, C.B., has commanded the regiment throughout its time in Upper Burma, and the Brigadier-General congratulates him, as also the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the regiment on being one of the smartest Native Infantry Regiments of the time.

The Brigadier-General wishes all ranks a hearty farewell and a prosperous journey to their Presidency.

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*Copy of a letter No. <sup>2004</sup><sub>B</sub>, dated 17th July 1888, from the Adjutant-General in India to His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, Bombay Army.*

I have the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief in India, to forward for disposal, under the orders of your Royal Highness, the enclosed report on the conduct and discipline in the field of the 23rd Bombay Infantry by Brigadier-General Sir K. C. Low, K.C.B., together with sheet reports on the British Officers of the regiment.

I am to add that the Commander-in-Chief has had much pleasure in perusing so favourable a report of this fine regiment and that Sir G. White's special recommendation in behalf of Captain Scallon has not escaped his Excellency's attention.

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*General Report on the 23rd Regiment, Bombay Light Infantry.*

Conduct and discipline ... Good.

Dress and turn-out ... Exceptionally good.

It has been one of the marked features of this regiment that all its outposts, however small, always bear a particularly smart and soldier-like appearance.

Sanitary condition and efficiency.

The regiment has seen more service and rough work than any Native Infantry Regiment in this command, and it has come out of the trial exceptionally well.

It has done brilliant service in Upper Burma.

It is remarkably well officered, and its going will be a loss to the Command.

(Sd.) K. C. LOW, Br.-Genl.,  
Commdg. 4th Brit. Burma Field Force.

Myingyan, 15th March 1888.



No. 47 B. C.  
2nd April 1888.

I can cordially endorse Brigadier-General Low's high opinion of this battalion. Of the many good Bombay regiments, that I have had under my command here, I look upon the 23rd as the best. On all points there are the strongest evidences that the regiment is commanded and looked after with particular care and strength and must have been trained to a high state of efficiency for long to have stood so admirably the ordeal through which it has passed here.

(Sd.) GEORGE WHITE, Maj.-Genl.,  
Comdg. Upper Burma Field Force.

Mandalay, 30th March 1888.

PALACE MANDALAY, 23rd September 1886.

No. C/674.

FROM

THE BRIGADE-MAJOR,  
1st Brigade, Burma Field Force,

TO

THE OFFICER COMMANDING  
23rd Bombay Light Infantry.

SIR,—In acknowledging receipt of the report of operations against dacoits from Lieutenant Wilson, received with your letter No.  $\frac{765}{A}$  of 9th instant, I have the honour, by direction, to request that you will be good enough to convey to that officer Brigadier-General East's expression of opinion that "this appears to have been a well-conducted affair and creditable to Lieutenant Wilson," in which Major-General White concurs.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have, &c.,  
(Sd.) G. SIMPSON, Major,  
Brigade-Major.

No.  $\frac{628}{D.A.A.}$

MYINGYAN, 30th September 1887.

FROM

THE DY. ASST. ADJT. AND QUARTER-MASTER GENERAL,  
4th Brigade, Burma Field Force.

TO

THE OFFICER COMMANDING  
23rd Bombay Light Infantry.

SIR,—Captain Lawford, 1st Madras Lancers, in his report of the recent expedition from Myaing to Kanle, specially mentions Jemadar Shaikh Mahbub of the regiment under your command for the judgment and ability he displayed, which on one occasion prevented the advance guard being led into an ambush.

The Brigadier-General wishes Jemadar Shaikh Mahbub informed that he has read the report with much pleasure.

I have, &c.,  
(Sd.) BASIL SPRAGGE, Captain,  
Dy. Asst. Quarter-Master General.

SOUTHERN DIVISION,  
GENERAL DEPARTMENT NO. <sup>2613</sup><sub>195</sub>.

From

J. J. LA TOUCHE, Esq., C.S.,  
Commissioner of the Southern Division,

To

THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING  
4th Brigade, Myingyan.

*Dated Minbu, 5th December 1887.*

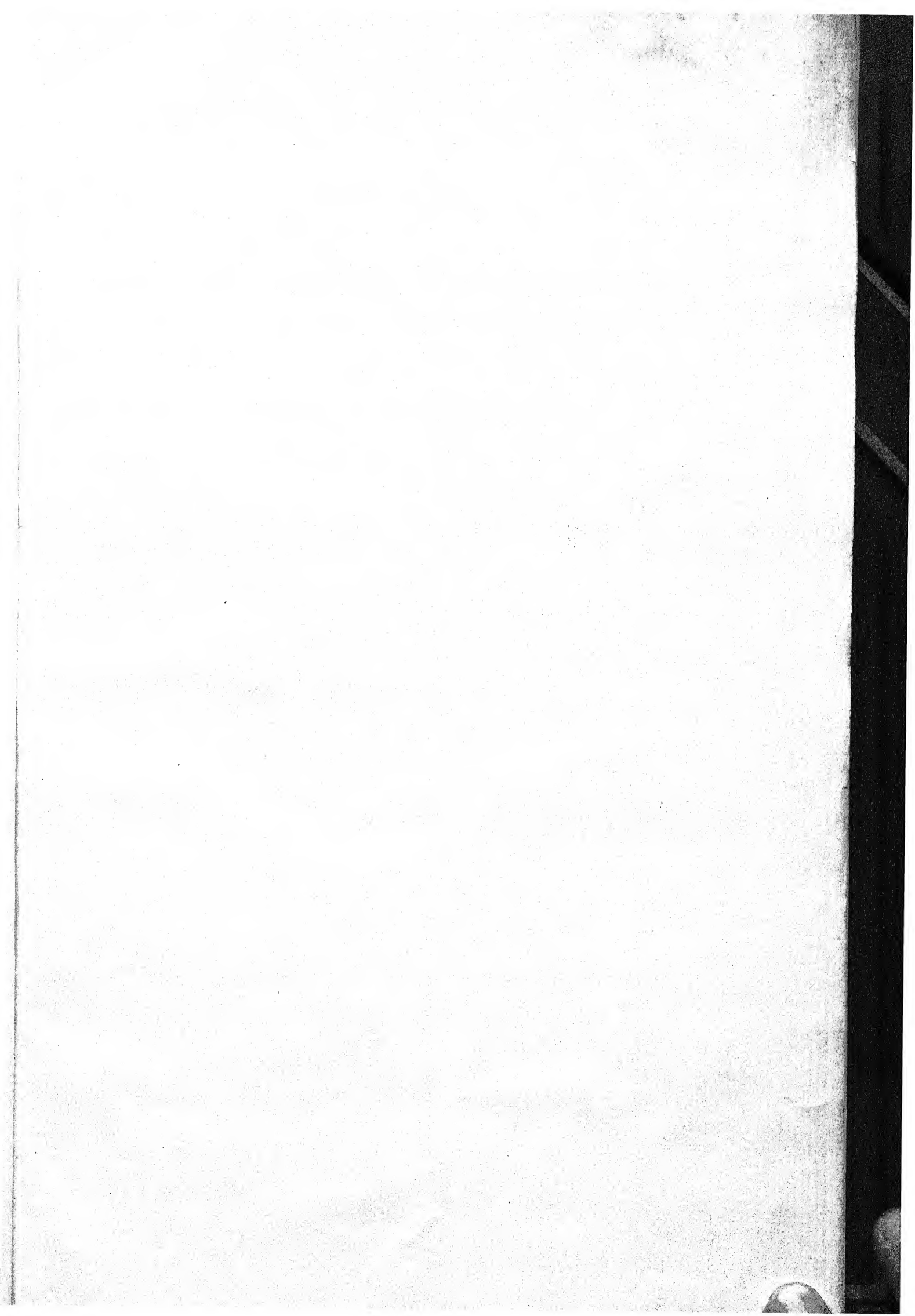
SIR,

\* \* \* \* \*

2. The improvement of Myaing has been a labour of love to Captain Scallon, and I trust that the town having now, through his energy, obtained a fair start, will increase and prosper even when Captain Scallon's fostering care is removed.

The money which it was possible to allot at present has been laid out to the best advantage, and I only regret that I was unable to place a larger sum at Captain Scallon's disposal.

I have &c.,  
(Sd.) J. J. D. LATOUCHE.





356.10954 BUR/WIL

Call No. ~~355.092~~ 13852

Accession No. ~~355.092~~ 13852

Title Record of services of the  
23rd Bombay Light Infantry

Author Wilson, Capt. W.A.M.

BORROWER'S NO.	DATE LOANED	BORROWER'S NO.	DATE LOANED
13852	13852		

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